

UNITED STATES-HUNGARIAN DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE ISSUES  
AGREED MINUTES ON A COMPREHENSIVE TRADE PACKAGE

Reference is made to the bilateral talks on economic issues between the delegations of the Government of the Republic of Hungary (Hungary) led by Deputy State Secretary, Dr. Péter Balás, and the Government of the United States of America (United States), led by Assistant United States Trade Representative for Europe and the Mediterranean, Ms. Catherine Novelli, in Washington, D.C., November 28-29, 2001 and subsequent discussions held in Budapest in January 2002.

After extensive discussion of the wide range of bilateral trade issues, both governments have agreed upon the following:

1. Both governments reaffirmed their desire to maintain and expand their bilateral economic ties.
2. Both governments desire to see Hungary continue to participate in the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. The United States indicated that it supports legislation under consideration in Congress to extend the U.S. GSP program, which expired on September 30, 2001.
3. Both governments agreed to review the tariff differential problem affecting exports of U.S. agricultural and industrial goods to Hungary. As a result of the review through January 2002, the Hungarian government will make, consistent with Hungarian laws, the tariff modifications indicated in the attached schedule, which will enter into force by April 1, 2002.
4. The U.S. government agrees to recognize in future GATT Article XXIV enlargement compensation negotiations following Hungary's accession to the European Community the trade benefits that exporters of US products gain owing to the tariff reductions made by Hungary in accordance with paragraph 3.
5. The United States understands Hungarian interest in the progress of several processes which affect Hungarian exporters, namely the interest of North American Bus Industries (NABI) in marketing its buses in the United States and of meat producers in obtaining permission for imports of fresh meat into the U.S. market. The U.S. government commits to facilitating the progress of these regulatory processes under the existing rules and regulations with the aim of reaching a decision in the case of buses by the end of March 2002, and, in the case of meat products, arriving at a satisfactory outcome by the end of June, 2002. In the absence of such outcomes, the two sides will consult expeditiously in order to review the situation.
6. The U.S. government, consistent with U.S. laws, will support the continuation of Hungary's participation in the U.S. GSP program for agricultural and industrial goods until Hungary becomes a member of the EU. The U.S. and Hungarian governments agreed to consult regarding any petitions connected with Hungary's GSP eligibility.

7. The U.S. government will give positive consideration to all Hungarian product petitions relevant to the GSP program under its existing rules and regulations, a process that will begin with the next annual product review following reauthorization of the GSP program.

These minutes concerning the comprehensive trade package are agreed to by the representatives of the Government of Hungary and the United States on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2002 and will come into force following an exchange of diplomatic notes.

FOR THE DELEGATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

FOR THE DELEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Dr. Istvan Major  
Deputy State Secretary

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Ms. Lisa Errion  
USTR Director for Central Europe